



Career Spotlight

Medical Photography

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Medical photographers, also known as biomedical photographers, have the artistic ability and knowledge of scientific processes. They use their skills to record and document scientific information in the following areas: biology, chemistry, medicine and other health related subjects. The main purpose of a medical photographer is to assist in research and education. Medical photographers perform the following tasks in their line of work: make charts and graphs, photograph autopsy, use photomicrography to see microscopic objects in full detail, and process photographs of the human body and diseases for further research. Photographic representations of medical photographers can be found in many different areas such as, medical and biological subject that are found in textbooks, civil/criminal legal procedures and teaching models. A person interested in the career of a medical photographer should be detail oriented and creative.

Medical photographers can be employed by medical schools, hospitals, research organizations, publishing companies, advertising agencies, pharmaceutical manufactures or health organizations. Many medical photographers contract out for their services, but there are some who are employed part-time and full-time. Medical photographers make an average annual salary of \$32,400. Medical photography is a small and competitive field with an expected growth between 10% and 25% in the job market through the year 2010.

High school students interested in medical photography should take the following classes in high school to prepare for this career: art, biology, chemistry, algebra, photography, drawing and design, English, history, graphic arts, printing, health occupations/medical professions education and computer illustration. For those students in college, a bachelor's degree program with a great deal of photography experience is required to become a medical photographer. Certification is offered by the BioCommunications Association's Board of Registry in order to become a Registered Biological Photographer (R.B.P.). After all educational requirements are met, an individual must pass written, practical, and oral examinations in order to become a R.B.P. Students interested in medical photography should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

If you are interested in Medical Photography, get started with HOSA. HOSA has a Medical Photography pilot event in Category III for 2005-2006. The top three competitors in each division (secondary and postsecondary/collegiate) will be recognized with a plaque during the Recognition Session at the HOSA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. For more information on the Medical Photography event, visit the HOSA website under the title HOSA Handbook Section B: Competitive Event Guidelines for 2005-2006.

